

I want to be able to use Relay anytime with anyone, using any Relay provider, just as two hearing people can call each other regardless of who is their telephone product/service provider. Please require interoperability and compatibility across Relay providers.

Video and IM Relay has become valuable tools for me. The traditional telephone (including TTY) is not practical for me. The use of Relay has made my work much more effective and I have become more productive. However, the value of Relay is limited because not everyone has access to my Relay product/service. Please end exclusion of deaf and hard of hearing people from full access to telecommunications by requiring open interoperability and compatibility across Relay providers.

I do accept free Relay equipment and software from providers—not necessarily because I like a particular provider the most—but because it is free—and allows me to make calls I couldn't make before. While I appreciate the free equipment and software, I want to be able to make and receive Relay calls from anybody without any restrictions from Relay providers.

As an educator and a frequent user of Sidekick 1, using the IM relay is a vital component of communications tool to stay in touch with parents, colleagues and friends throughout the day, on and off campus. I rely on the voice phone number set up by MCI WorldCom Relay for IM relay calls and messages from hearing people. Video relay calls to my hearing family members have been a special treat for both of us because it allowed us to have more close-to-real conversations.

Thank you!